

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00

L-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /066 W

----- 054677

Z R 241047Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4027

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL UDORN

MACTHAI J-3

DIA

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 3682

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JAKARTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BRIEFING: REPORT ON CHARGE'S MAY 24

CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN

REF: HOGANSON TELECON WITH TEARE/RAMSEY 240730Z MAY 75

1. EVERY NIGHT AND MORNING SEEMS TO BRING NEW CRISIS

WHICH WE SEEK TO WORK OUT DURING THE DAY. LAST NIGHT ALL

TAPS GUARDS WERE PULLED AWAY BY PL AND THIS MORNING THERE

WAS DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY OF USAID EMPLOYEES

SEEKING THEIR PAY. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY TO REACH

AGREEMENT ON SEVERANCE PAY FOR GUARDS BUT PAYMENT OF

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USAID EMPLOYEES IS OF COURSE LINKED TO OUR ABILITY TO

WORK IN USAID OFFICES. IN LIGHT OF PGNU'S INABILITY/
UNWILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, WE ARE SPEAKING
DIRECTLY TO USAID EMPLOYEES AND SEEKING STUDENT LEADERS.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FRUSTRATING CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD
OVER PAST DAYS WITH FONMIN PHOUMI AND MINISTER OF
ECONOMY AND PLAN (AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF JCCIA) SOTH PHETRASY,
THE UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONAL
EFFECTS (WHICH ARE ACCUMULATING FAST), THE CONTINUED
OCCUPATION OF USAID COMPOUND, AND MOST IMMEDIATELY IN
VIEW OF GATHERING DEMONSTRATION BEFORE EMBASSY LEFT
WITHOUT POLICE PROTECTION, I ASKED FOR URGENT MEETING
WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUWA WHO RECEIVED ME AT
10:00 A.M.

3. AS SOON AS I MENTIONED DEMONSTRATION, HE CALLED
SOTH TO HAVE MIXED POLICE INSURE SECURITY OF EMBASSY.
I THEN WENT OVER DIFFICULTIES IN ALL FIELDS WE HAD BEEN
EXPERIENCING. I SAID THAT IN MY VIEW THERE WAS NEED
OF MEETING WITH AT LEAST HIMSELF, PHOUMI AND SOTH, AND
ON OUR PART, ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY AND MYSELF.
I SAID PROBLEMS CONFRONTING US WERE NOT DIFFICULT IN
THEMSELVES, BASIC ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN MUTUALLY
AGREED AND WHAT WE NEEDED WAS TO SIT DOWN AND DECIDE
HOW TO PROCEED PRACTICALLY. (COUNTRY TEAM HAS BECOME
CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE TO GET SOUVANNA AND PHOUMI IN
SAME ROOM TO TALK TO THEM TOGETHER; OTHERWISE PHOUMI
ALWAYS SLIPS AWAY.) SOUVANNA AGREED AND SET MEETING FOR
10:00 A.M. MONDAY, MAY 26.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE URGENT PROBLEMS --
DEMONSTRATIONS, SHIPMENT OF EFFECTS DIFFICULTIES, GUARDS --
WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THEN. BUT HE WAS
FIRM; ON THE REST HE SAID HE WOULD TALK TO SOTH PHETRASY.
HOWEVER, HE ADDED A VERY REVEALING COMMENT: "YOU DON'T
KNOW," HE SAID, "HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO DEAL WITH UN-
EDUCATED PEOPLE. THEY LACK UNDERSTANDING AND THEY ARE
STUBBORN." FROM THERE HE WENT ON TO DENY LAOS GOING
COMMUNIST (HE SHOWED ME WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF NISSEN'S
STATEMENT THAT USG DID NOT CONSIDER LAOS COMMUNIST).

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AS LONG AS HE WAS ALIVE, DESPITE WHAT PEOPLE SAID OF HIM,
LAOS WOULD NOT BE COMMUNIST, HE SAID. "AFTER I PASS ON,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN."

5. ON MY WAY BACK, FINDING ROAD TO EMBASSY BLOCKED,
I WENT TO FONMIN AND CRASHED IN ON PHOUMI, SAYING THAT
I COULD NOT RETURN TO MY OFFICE AND WAS THEREFORE SEEK-
ING REFUGE IN MINISTRY. WE THEN HAD A CHAT. PHOUMI

WENT OVER DEMANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS, ALONG LINES SOTH
PRESENTED THEM LAST EVENING, BUT SEEMED TO EPHASIZE
NEED FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT BY EMBASSY. HE INDICATED
THAT WITH SUCH A STATEMENT IT MIGH#JDF*0H*I@QU
P(T"!Q#/T#VIJ_FBE;!*
?+K*0<76_KH C@.(X 8HK(RU<V(RP,UK08AXW#ITWW#,UF#BDF;KGD*DZ*0#QS
M;F22K @_D A1@3Y
/P2FK7<3FXZD;RW
>O+U((QG
<3HR<2&#Y@M'RIF8QK
27D-@+D-YP8W49/B,Q+<W9

W
GE5/TJ(K<"/"')/KD,H
_HPH*5K|>
K? .&,>;# K1K

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONAL EFFECTS, LABOR DISPUTES, CUSTOMS SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0104
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750519/aaaaaqkn.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75, 75 MAY 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S BRIEFING: REPORT ON CHARGE'S MAY 24 CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, US, AID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006